

Human Hide Industry.

ITS EXTENT

In Massachusetts.

BOTH SIDES OF THE QUESTION.

Mr. William Muller, tanner, of the firm of Muller Bros., who have their factory at North Cambridge, is reported by the Herald to have made this statement:

"I am glad to have an opportunity of refuting Gov. Butler's statements about the human hide business' in this State. Gov. Butler has made so loud a noise over Tewksbury leather and Tewksbury shoes, and has tried to make so much capital out of the 'inhuman industry,' as he calls it, that it is certainly time to let the public know the truth of the matter. I tanned at my factory the three pieces of skin which Gov. Butler had in his possession before he cut up certain small pieces to distribute among his friends. I suppose he still has much of the leather. The pieces were brought to me by a friend, at the request of a medical student, who wanted them tanned merely as a scientific experiment, and with that understanding I agreed to accommodate him. That which Gov. Butler secured is all the human skin which ever entered or left our tannery. Notwithstanding Gov. Butler's assertion that the tanning of human skin has become an 'industry,' I know that no other tanner in this State ever worked on any except small pieces, and it has never been done except for scientific purposes. I never asked nor received a cent of money for tanning the skin, "nor did I 'tan it on halves, as they do in Vermont and New Hampshire,' as Gov. Butler tried to make the Tewksbury Committee believe during the hearing. So it's very hard to see where the industry' part appears. And about that famous Tewksbury shoe in the Washington street window," said Mr. Muller, "there is no more human skin about that than there is about a buffalo robe. Gov. Butler could satisfy himself of this, if he wanted to, by comparing some of his human leather with it. That shoe was made of dogskin, which the proprietor of the store, as he himself acknowledges, got from me; and the claim that there is a particle of human hide about it is a deliberate misstatement. If Gov. Butler doesn't believe this, let him, as I suggested, compare his Tewksbury leather with it. He has a corner on all the human skin in Massachusetts, and is the only man who can make the comparison. I only wish I had as much of a corner on calfskin. A corner is a great thing. If Gov. Butler ever traveled in Germany," said the tanner, "he has probably seen or heard of the 'leather General,' whose body was prepared, tanned and exhibited. He hasn't been exhibited quite so largely as Gen. Butler's specimens but nobody ever thought of raising a row over the scientific experiment and charging the tanners with dealing in dead men's skins. No sir; Gen. Butler's cry won't amount to much with voters because his charges are false. What I've said is the whole truth and I'm willing to swear to it."

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